UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Denver, Colorado
May 1, 1968

HOLT CHEW
MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

Records of the Denver Police Department, Bureau of Identification and Records, Denver, Colorado, reveal that [redacted] Denver Police Department Number [redacted], was placed on probation [redacted] after conviction for shooting [redacted] a Negro [redacted]

On April 29, 1968 and April 30, 1968, [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents of the FBI. He was asked if he recalled he made a telephone call to the office of Martin Luther King in Atlanta, Georgia on December 13, 1965. He reflected for a few moments and then said he was not about to lie about the situation, especially to the FBI. He said that he has no love for Martin Luther King and is glad he is dead. He stated King was not the non-violent civil rights leader he claimed to be. Wherever he went, violence followed and he was responsible for 37 deaths in the United States. He added that, as a personal matter, King was directly responsible for the destruction of the business career of one of his sons, [redacted] of Saint Augustine, Florida. He estimated his son's financial loss at $400,000.00.

[redacted] stated that his son was [redacted] in Saint Augustine, Florida a few years ago when King and his followers came down to Florida and started efforts to integrate the industry. His son was [redacted] in Saint Augustine at the time. [redacted] was taken into Federal Court by these people for refusing to integrate his establishment and as the result of an unfavorable court decision, he ended up resigning [redacted] and selling [redacted] at a

[redacted]

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severe loss. [redacted] said that there was considerable newspaper publicity over the matter at the time.

[redacted] placed King in the same category as Stokely Carmichael and H. Rap Brown and stated frankly that he hoped the same fate befalls the latter two. He made the statement that he is not against the Negro race; that he was born in Georgia, brought up with Negroes and hunted and fished with them. He made it clear that he is against some individual Negroes like Carmichael and Brown, who advocate violence and have no regard for property rights, but is not against all Negroes.

Having made these points, he returned to the original question and stated that he had no recollection of the telephone call and admitted that the reason could be that he could have been drinking at the time the call was made. He volunteered that at that time in his life he was a "bad drinker". He emphasized that he bad no doubt that he made the call, if interviewing Agents said he did, but that he could not recall it. He stated that he was certain, whether or not he had been drinking, that he would not have made a threat over the telephone since he knows such a threat could lead to trouble for him. He said if he had had any intention of doing anything concerning King, he would not have used the telephone, he would have taken direct action.

[redacted] advised that he is certain that no one "put him up" to making the telephone call, and it was not an action involving anyone other than himself. He was shown photographs of James Earl Ray, the man being sought in connection with the assasination of Martin Luther King, but disclaimed any knowledge whatsoever of Ray.

He constantly referred to King, Carmichael and Brown using expletives in an effort to show his intense dislike for these men.

He stated that he was in Denver on April 4, 1968 and April 5, 1968 and left the city by Eastern Arilines for Augusta, Georga on April 6, 1968 where he is promoting business interests in the food industry, whereby he hopes to set up his son [redacted] in business. He was unwilling to further identify his business interests. He stated his son [redacted] is

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presently [redacted] in Sylvania, Georgia and drove up from there to meet him in Augusta the first part of the week of April 7, 1968. Both he and his son then drove to Sylvania and on to St. Augustine, Florida where they were met on April 12, 1968 by [redacted] and a younger son, who had just returned from military service in Korea. He said his wife and younger son flew from Denver. Thereafter, he and his family vacationed in Florida until he, his wife and younger son returned to Denver on April 29, 1968 in a new car he purchased in Florida.

He specifically stated that he had nothing to do with King's death and said that he knew of no conspiracy relating to it. He stated that he saw King's funeral on television and the way it was conducted it looked to him like it had been planned for 20 years.

He volunteered to the Interviewing Agents that he has every intention of protecting his apartment house property in Denver, Colorado with as much force as is necessary if anyone attempts to cause damage or loot it. He stated that he was angry at the leaders of this country for putting up with rioting, looting and the like. He thinks that the Attorney General is "very weak' and used more expletives to emphasize his point. He stated that he is "all for" law and order, but would like to see law enforcement empowered to act. He also stated that he was angry because the National Association For The Advancement of Colored People were able to close businesses throughout the country after King's death when very few businesses closed aster President Kennedy's assasination; and he is convinced that threats were used to accomplish the closing of businesses in Denver, as he was so informed before he left on his trip.

It should be noted that a source who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on January 21, 1966 that [redacted] is a highly irascible and unpredictable individual, an alcoholic and possibly a user of narcotics.

[redacted] on April 30, 1968 advised that her husband left Denver on April 6, 1968 for Augusta,

Georgia via Eastern Airlines and that she and a younger son traveled to Florida to meet him on April 12, 1968 via United, Eastern and Delta airlines.

Records of the Retail Credit Men's Association, Denver, Colorado revealed on April 30, 1968 that [redacted] was born [redacted] at [redacted] He attended school there and came to Denver in 1932. He served in the United States Army during World War II and has been owner and operator of [redacted] for many years. His wife's name is [redacted] and he has four children. He has been on record with the credit bureau since February, 1937 and has maintained a satisfactory credit rating.

[redacted] is described as follows:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	55
Born	[redacted]
Height	5'9"
Weight	185 pounds
Hair	Gray
Eyes	Blue
Build	Stocky
Scars and Marks	None visible, face heavily lined
Arrest Numbers	Denver Police Department, [redacted]

[redacted]

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